

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 31 and 47 without prejudice, and amend claims 2, 30, 34, and 45 as follows:

1. (Original) A computerized method by which a ticket provider may deliver a digital ticket to a ticket consumer across a communications channel, which digital ticket is subject to subsequent redemption, the digital ticket computerized delivery and redemption method comprising:

first communicating, across a communications channel from a computer of a ticket provider to a computer of a prospective ticket consumer, first digital data D<sub>1</sub> in respect of an occurrence for which tickets may be delivered; and then, the prospective ticket consumer deciding to obtain a digital ticket for the occurrence and thus to become a ticket consumer,

second communicating, across the communications channel from the computer of the ticket consumer to the computer of the ticket provider, second digital data D<sub>2</sub> including indication that a ticket is desired for the occurrence; and then, the ticket request being capable of being fulfilled,

calculating in the computer of the ticket provider by use of a private key s a digital signature of third digital data D<sub>3</sub>, which third digital data D<sub>3</sub> is in respect of one or both of the first digital data D<sub>1</sub> and the second digital data D<sub>2</sub>, which digital signature of the digital data D<sub>3</sub> is, as well being a proof both (i) that a private signature key s was used by the computer of the ticket provider in generation of the digital signature and (ii) that one or both

of the digital data D<sub>1</sub>, D<sub>2</sub> was used in respect of its generation, (iii) suitably stored in a transportable storage medium;

wherein the digital data D<sub>1</sub>, D<sub>2</sub> in respect of which the digital signature of digital data D<sub>3</sub> was generated becomes a memorialization of a particular provision by the ticket provider of the particular digital ticket for the particular occurrence to the ticket consumer who is particularly identified at least as a party at the other end of the communicating transpiring across the communications channel;

third communicating, across the communications channel from the computer of the ticket provider to the computer of the ticket consumer, at least the signed digital data D<sub>3</sub>;

~~first storing with the computer of the ticket consumer in the transportable storage medium at least the signed digital data D<sub>3</sub>, thus turning the transportable storage medium into a digital ticket;~~

physically transporting the digital ticket in the form of the transportable storage medium so containing at least the signed digital data D<sub>3</sub>, to a specific time and place where the specific occurrence for which the digital ticket has been provided is to transpire;

tendering the digital ticket for redemption to a ticket taker at the specific occurrence;

reading into a computer of the ticket taker at least the signed digital data D<sub>3</sub>;  
recovering in the computer of the ticket taker, with a digital verification key  $v$  corresponding to the signature key  $s$  of the ticket provider and from the signed digital data D<sub>3</sub>, the digital data D<sub>3</sub>; and

determining in the computer of the ticket taker IF the digital data D<sub>3</sub> was recoverable by verification key v AND, having been so recovered, the digital data D<sub>3</sub> correctly memorializes the particular provision by the ticket provider of the particular third digital data D<sub>3</sub> for the particular occurrence to the particular ticket consumer who at one time communicated across the communications channel THEN the digital ticket is valid, ELSE IF the digital data D<sub>3</sub> was recovered by use of the verification key v BUT the digital data D<sub>3</sub> recovered incorrectly memorializes the particular provision by the ticket provider of the particular third digital data D<sub>3</sub> for the particular occurrence to the particular ticket consumer who at one time communicated across the communications channel THEN the digital ticket is invalid.

2. (Currently Amended) The digital ticket computerized delivery and redemption method according to claim 1

wherein the second communicating is of second digital data D<sub>2</sub> including a one-way function **hash (R)** of a number R which number R is uniquely known to the computer of the ticket consumer and not to the computer of the ticket provider;

wherein the calculating in the computer of the ticket provider is of a digital signature in respect of the third digital data D<sub>3</sub> including the one way function of **hash (R)** plus information I concerning the event for which the ticket is had, ~~Sign (s, I || hash (R))~~  
Sign (s, I || hash (R));

wherein the third communicating is of Sign (s, I || hash (R));

wherein the first storing is of **R** appended to **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**, or **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R**, as the digital ticket;

wherein the reading into the computer of the ticket taker is of the **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R**;

wherein the recovering in the computer of the ticket taker of the **I || hash (R)** gives **hash (R)**; and, having both **R** and **hash (R)** to hand,

wherein the determining further proceeds by recalculating the **hash (R)** in respect of **R**, so that IF the recalculated **hash (R)** equals to the recovered **hash (R)** of the digital ticket as read THEN the digital ticket is valid ELSE IF the **hash (R)** does not equal to the recovered **hash (R)** of the digital ticket as read THEN the digital ticket is invalid.

3. (Original) The digital ticket computerized delivery and redemption method according to claim 2

wherein the determining still further proceeds so that IF the read digital ticket is the first uniquely presented THEN the digital ticket is valid ELSE IF the read digital ticket is not the first uniquely presented THEN the digital ticket is invalid.

4. (Original) The digital ticket computerized delivery and redemption method according to claim 2

wherein the second communicating is of a one-way hash function **hash (R)** of a number **R**;

wherein the calculating in the computer of the ticket provider is of a digital signature in respect of signature key **s** of both the **hash (R)** plus information **I** concerning the event for which the ticket is had, **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**;

wherein the third communicating is of **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**;

wherein the first storing is of **R** appended to **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**, or **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R**, as the digital ticket;

wherein the reading into the computer of the ticket taker is of the **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R**;

wherein the recovering in the computer of the ticket taker of the **I || hash (R)** gives **hash (R)**; and, having both **R** and **hash (R)** to hand,

wherein the determining further proceeds by recalculating the **hash (R)** in respect of **R**, so that IF the recalculated **hash (R)** equals to the recovered **hash (R)** of the digital ticket as read THEN the digital ticket is valid ELSE IF the **hash (R)** does not equal to the recovered **hash (R)** of the digital ticket as read THEN the digital ticket is invalid.

5. (Original) The digital ticket computerized delivery and redemption method according to claim 4

wherein the determining still further proceeds so that IF the read digital ticket is the first uniquely presented THEN the digital ticket is valid ELSE IF the read digital ticket is not the first uniquely presented THEN the digital ticket is invalid.

6. (Original) The digital ticket computerized delivery and redemption method according to claim 1

wherein the calculating is of digital signature suitably displayed as a 2-D code; and

wherein the first storing with the computer of the ticket consumer is by printing of the 2-D code upon a printable transportable storage medium.

7. (Original) The digital ticket computerized delivery and redemption method according to claim 6 wherein the reading into a computer of the ticket taker of the digital signature transpires by use of an optical reader.

8. (Original) A computerized method by which a ticket provider may deliver a ticket to a ticket consumer across a communications channel comprising:  
first transmitting, across a communications channel from a computer of a ticket provider to a computer of a prospective ticket consumer, data regarding an event for which tickets may be delivered; and then, the prospective ticket consumer deciding to obtain a ticket for a particular selected event and thus to become a ticket consumer,

first calculating in the computer of the ticket consumer a number **R**; then second calculating in the computer of the ticket consumer a one-way function of the number **R** as **hash (R)**;

second transmitting, across the communications channel from the computer of the ticket consumer to the computer of the ticket provider, at least the **hash (R)** as ticket order data; and then, the ticket request being capable of being fulfilled,

third calculating in the computer of the ticket provider in respect of signature key **s** a digital signature of **hash (R)** appended to information **I** regarding the event as **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**, this **Sign (s, I || hash (R))** constituting a digital ticket precursor; then

third transmitting, across the communications channel from the computer of the ticket provider to the computer of the ticket consumer, the digital ticket precursor; **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**;

fourth calculating, in the computer of the ticket consumer as an appending of **R** to the digital ticket precursor **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**, **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R**, as a digital ticket;

first storing the digital ticket **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R** from the computer of the ticket consumer to a transportable storage medium.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8 expanded and extended to use of the digital ticket by the ticket consumer at the particular selected event, the method, after the writing, further comprising:

transporting the transportable storage medium within which the digital ticket **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R** is written to the particular selected event;

tendering the digital ticket within the transportable storage medium for verification and for admission to the particular selected event;

reading the digital ticket **Sign** (**s**, **I** || **hash** (**R**)) || **R** to an event computer;

extracting in the event computer the number **R** from the read **Sign** (**s**, **I** || **hash** (**R**)) || **R**;

fifth calculating, by use of a verification key **v** complimentary to the signature key **s**, **I** || **hash** (**R**); plus

sixth calculating in the event computer, with the same one-way function previously used in the second calculating, **hash** (**R**); and then, having both **R** and sixth-calculated **hash** (**R**) to hand,

comparing the sixth-calculated **hash** (**R**) to the **hash** (**R**) portion of the fifth-calculated **I** || **hash** (**R**);

wherein IF the fifth-calculating proceeds correctly AND the information **I** is correct for the event AND the sixth-calculated **hash** (**R**) compares to the fifth-calculated **hash** (**R**) of the digital ticket as read THEN grant admission to a holder of the digital ticket ELSE IF the fifth-calculating proceeds incorrectly OR the information **I** is incorrect for the event OR the sixth-calculated **hash** (**R**) fails to compare to the fifth-calculated **hash** (**R**) of the digital ticket as read THEN deny admission to the holder of the digital ticket.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9 wherein IF the fifth-calculating proceeds correctly AND the information **I** is correct for the event AND the sixth-calculated **hash (R)** compares to the fifth-calculated **hash (R)** of the digital ticket as read AND the read digital ticket is the first uniquely presented THEN grant admission to a holder of the digital ticket ELSE IF the fifth-calculating proceeds incorrectly OR the information **I** is incorrect for the event OR the sixth-calculated **hash (R)** fails to compares to the fifth-calculated **hash (R)** of the digital ticket as read OR the read digital ticket is not the first uniquely presented THEN deny admission to the holder of the digital ticket.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 9 that, between the extracting and the fifth calculating, further comprises:

second storing **R** in the event computer as an indication that the digital ticket has been tendered.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 8 where the ticket provider is also a ticket seller, the ticket consumer is also a ticket buyer, and the delivery of the ticket to the ticket consumer across the communications channel accompanies a sale of the ticket: wherein the second transmitting further includes electronic payment suitable to the order data.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 8 wherein the first transmitting, the second transmitting and the third transmitting are upon a worldwide communications network.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 8 wherein the first transmitting, the second transmitting and the third transmitting are upon a worldwide secure or encrypted communications network.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein the first transmitting, the second transmitting and the third transmitting are upon the Internet.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15 wherein the first transmitting, the second transmitting and the third transmitting are upon the Secure Socket Layer (or SSL) of the Internet.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 8 wherein the first storing is in a transportable medium subsequently physically deliverable to the site of the particular selected event to there be tendered as a digital ticket by the ticket consumer.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 8  
wherein the first storing is in the transportable medium of a printed substrate;  
wherein the printed encrypted digital record is subsequently physically  
deliverable to the site of the particular selected event to there be tendered as the digital ticket  
by the ticket consumer.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18  
wherein the first storing in the transportable medium of a printed substrate is in  
form of a two-dimensional bar code.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19  
wherein the first storing in the transportable medium of a printed two-  
dimensional bar code is in accordance with the PDF417 standard.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 19  
wherein the first storing in the transportable medium of a printed two-  
dimensional bar code is in accordance with the QR standard.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 8  
wherein the first storing in the transportable medium of a computer disk.

23. (Original) The method according to claim 8 wherein the first storing is in the transportable medium of a smart card; wherein the digital record stored within the smart card is subsequently physically deliverable to the site of the particular selected event to there be tendered as the digital ticket by the ticket consumer.

24. (Original) A system for delivering a digital ticket upon a communications network comprising:

- a ticket consumer's computer, connected to the communications network,
- for first transmitting ticket order data upon the communications network to a ticket provider's computer,
- for first receiving upon the communications network from the ticket provider's computer a digitally signed ticket data, and
- for storing the digitally signed ticket data in a transportable storage medium;
- a ticket provider's computer, connected to the communications network,
- for second receiving from the ticket consumer's computer upon the communications network the first-transmitted ticket order data,
- for digitally signing the ticket data, and
- for second transmitting the digitally signed ticket data upon the communications network to the ticket consumer's computer; and
- a communications network

for communicating at a first time the first-transmitting of the ticket consumer's computer to the second-receiving of the ticket provider's computer, and

for communicating at a second time the fourth-transmitting of the ticket provider's computer to the first-receiving of the ticket consumer's computer.

25. (Original) The system for delivering a digital ticket according to claim 24

wherein the ticket consumer's computer

is first calculating a number **R**, and

is second calculating a one way function of **R** to produce **hash (R)** as ticket order data,

wherein the first transmitting is of the second-calculated **hash (R)** as the ticket

data,

wherein the first receiving is of **hash (R)** and additional information **I** digitally

signed with signature key **s** as **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**,

is third calculating an appending of **R** to the digital ticket precursor **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**, giving **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R** as a digital ticket, and wherein the storing is of the third-calculated digital ticket **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R**;

wherein the ticket provider's computer

is second receiving the first-transmitted **hash (R)** ticket order data,

is calculating a digital signature in respect of the ticket data, and additional information **I**, in respect of signature key **s** as **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**, and is second transmitting the calculated **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**.

26. (Original) The system for delivering a digital ticket according to claim 25 wherein the ticket consumer's computer is storing the digital ticket by printing it.

27. (Original) The system for delivering a digital ticket according to claim 26 wherein the ticket consumer's computer is storing the digital ticket by printing it in a 2-D machine-readable pattern.

28. (Original) The system for delivering a digital ticket according to claim 27 wherein the ticket consumer's computer is storing the digital ticket by printing it in a 2-D machine-readable bar code pattern.

29. (Original) A system for delivering a digital ticket upon a communications network comprising:

a ticket consumer's computer, connected to the communications network,  
for first calculating a number **R**,  
for second calculating a one way function of **R** to produce **hash (R)** as ticket  
data,

for first transmitting the second-calculated **hash (R)** ticket data upon the  
communications network to a ticket provider's computer as a ticket data for a particular  
selected event,

for first receiving upon the communications network a digitally signed data in  
respect of signature key **s** of **hash (R)** and additional information **I** as **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**,

for third calculating an appending of **R** to the digital ticket precursor **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**  
**| hash (R)**) so as to give **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R** in a digital ticket, and

for first storing the third-calculated digital ticket **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R** in  
a transportable storage-medium;

a ticket provider's computer, connected to the communications network,  
for second receiving from the ticket consumer's computer upon the  
communications network the first-transmitted **hash (R)** ticket data,

for fourth calculating digitally signed data in respect of signature key **s** of  
second-received **hash R** and of information **I** as **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**, and

for second transmitting the fourth-calculated **Sign (s, I || hash (R))** upon the  
communications network to the ticket consumer's computer;

and a communications network

for communicating at a first time the first-transmitting of the ticket consumer's computer to the second-receiving of the ticket provider's computer, and

for communicating at a second time the fourth-transmitting of the ticket provider's computer to the first-receiving of the ticket consumer's computer.

30. (Currently Amended) A digital ticket comprising:

A tangible transportable data storage medium containing a digital signature of an issuer of the ticket;

wherein the tangible transportable data storage medium contains Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R where R is a random number private to the ticket consumer, hash (R) is a one-way function of R, and Sign (s, I || hash (R)) is a digital signature, in respect of signature key s private to the ticket provider, of the hash (R) appended to information I.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Original) A digital ticket procured by a ticket consumer upon a communication network from and by interaction with a ticket provider, the digital ticket comprising:

a tangible transportable data storage medium containing Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R where R is a random number private to the ticket consumer, hash (R) is a number that is

a one-way function of **R**, and **Sign (s, I || hash (R))** is a digital signature, in respect of signature key **s** private to the ticket provider, of the **hash (R)** appended to information **I**.

33. (Original) A digital ticket procured by a ticket consumer upon a communication network from and by interaction with a ticket provider, the digital ticket comprising:

a tangible transportable data storage medium containing **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**

|| **R** where

(1) **R** is a number having its origin in a computer of the ticket consumer,

which number **R** is appended to

(2) a number **Sign (s, I || hash (R))** that was computed in a computer of the

ticket provider as a digitally signature signed data in respect of a signature key **s** of a number

**hash (R)** appended to information **I**, thus **Sign (s, I || hash (R))**, and subsequently

communicated across the communications network to the computer of the ticket consumer,

which number **hash (R)** was itself computed in the computer of the ticket provider consumer

as a one way function of **R**, thus **hash (R)**, and subsequently communicated to the computer

of the ticket provider;

wherein number **R**, having its origin in a computer of the ticket consumer, is private to the ticket consumer and is not public, and

wherein the digital signature key **s** of the computer of the ticket provider is private to the ticket provider and is not public.

34. (Currently Amended) A digital ticket comprising:  
a tangible transportable digital data storage medium containing  
first-type data, originally known both to a buyer and to a seller of a ticket and  
meaningful to at least the seller of the ticket to identify, at least relatively, a particular event  
for which the ticket was sold, and

second-type data including a signed digital representation of a particular  
parameter that was originally computer-generated in a sequence  
first by the buyer of the ticket as a non-invertible function of a random number  
called a "first-time-made non-invertible function", and then

second by the seller of the ticket as a digital signature of the first-time-made  
non-invertible function, and then

third by the buyer of the ticket to attach the selfsame random number;  
wherein, to validate the digital ticket upon attempted redemption of the ticket,  
the random number is detached, and then  
the signed first-time-made non-invertible function is interpreted, recovering

this first-time-made non-invertible function, and then  
the non-invertible function of that selfsame random number just detached is  
newly made all over again, which newly made non-invertible function is called the "second-  
time-made non-invertible function";

wherein the second-time-made non-invertible function EITHER equals the  
first-time-made non-invertible function IN WHICH CASE the ticket is not invalid OR ELSE

the second-time-made non-invertible function does not equal the first-time-made non-invertible functional thus making the digital ticket is invalid for at least the particular event.

35. (Original) The digital ticket according to claim 34 wherein the digital signature within the tangible medium as read by a digital reader is further compared to a data base of digital tickets actually signed and sold not so as to determine whether a tendered digital ticket is valid or invalid but rather for statistical purposes.

36. (Original) The digital ticket according to claim 34 wherein the digital signature within the tangible medium is visible to the eye.

37. (Original) The digital ticket according to claim 34 wherein the digital signature visible to the eye is comparable by eye to a catalog of visual sensible representations of digital tickets actually signed and sold in order to determine whether a tendered digital ticket is valid or invalid.

38. (Original) A system for delivering a digital ticket from a ticket seller to a ticket buyer, the system comprising:  
a communication channel for  
at a first time sending from a ticket seller to a ticket buyer data regarding events for which tickets may be had,

at a second time sending from the ticket buyer to the ticket seller data representative of a non-invertible transformation of a number determined by the ticket buyer only, and

at a third time sending from the ticket seller to the ticket buyer a digital signature of the non-invertible transformation,

wherein the received digital signature of the non-invertible transformation is combined with the number to produce a digital ticket;

a ticket buyer's computer, communicatively connected to the communications channel, for (i) determining the number, (ii) computing the non-invertible transformation, and (iii) combining the non-invertible transformation with the number to produce a digital ticket;

a ticket seller's computer, communicatively connected to the communications channel, for computing, in respect of the non-invertible transformation received from the buyer, the digital signature of the non-invertible transformation; and

a tangible portable medium of digital data storage connected to the buyer's computer for storing the digital ticket, and for transporting this digital ticket to a physical site of the particular selected event, where it may be used for admission.

39. (Original) The system according to claim 38 wherein the communication channel is sending at the second time a random number.

40. (Original) The system according to claim 38 wherein the communication channel is sending at the second time a number representing the particular selected event.

41. (Original) The system according to claim 38 wherein the communication channel comprises:

a worldwide digital communications network.

42. (Original) ... The system according to claim 38 wherein the communication channel comprises: a worldwide secure digital communications network.

43. (Original) ... The system according to claim 38 wherein the tangible portable medium of digital data storage comprises:  
a computer disk.

44. (Original) ... The system according to claim 38 wherein the tangible portable medium of digital data storage comprises:  
a printed medium.

45. (Currently Amended) A printed ticket bearing indicia CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the indicia includes a 2-D bar code containing absolutely all

necessary information by which the legitimacy, if not the uniqueness, of the ticket may be determined;

FURTHER CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the 2-D bar coded indicia contains  
a one-way function of a number provided by a holder of the ticket.

46. (Original) The printed ticket bearing indicia according to claim 45  
FURTHER CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the 2-D bar coded indicia contains data digitally signed by the provider of the ticket.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Original) The printed ticket bearing indicia according to claim 45  
FURTHER CHARACTERIZED IN THAT the 2-D bar coded indicia contains **Sign (s, I || hash (R)) || R** where

(1) **R** is a number having its origin in a computer of a consumer of the ticket, which number **R** is appended to

(2) a number **Sign (s, I || hash (R))** that was computed in a computer of a provider of the ticket as a digital signature in respect of digital signature key **s** of the number **hash (R)** in combination with information **I**, subsequently communicated across the communications network to the computer of the ticket consumer, which number **hash (R)** was itself

computed in the computer of the ticket provider as a one way function of **R** and subsequently communicated to the computer of the ticket provider;

wherein number **R**, having its origin in a computer of the ticket consumer, is private to the ticket consumer and is not public; and

wherein the digital signature key **s** of the computer of the ticket provider is private to the ticket provider and is not public.

49. (Original) A communications system for selling and delivering a digital ticket comprising:

a ticket buyer computer (i) sending at a first time a one-way transformation of a private number to a seller computer, (ii) receiving at a third time signed information from the ticket seller computer, and (iii) storing at a fourth time within a digital store the received encrypted signed information plus the private number;

a ticket seller computer (i) receiving at the first time the one-way transformation of the private number from the seller computer, (ii) signing at a second time this one-way transformation and additional information, and (iii) sending at the third time the signed first transformation and additional information to the ticket buyer computer as signed information; and

a digital store storing at the fourth time the signed information plus the private number as a digital ticket;

wherein upon (i) a reading of the signed information, (ii) a decrypting of the signed information to recover the one-way transformation of the private number, (iii) a reproducing with the same secure first transformation that the ticket seller used the secure first transformation of the number all over again, and (iv) a comparing of the decrypted recovered one-way transformation to the reproduced first transformation, validity of the digital ticket is assessable.

50. (Original) A method for selling and delivering a digital ticket comprising:

first-sending at a first time a one-way transformation of a private number from a ticket buyer computer to a ticket seller computer; first-receiving at the fist time the one-way transformation of the private number in the ticket seller computer;

signing at a second time the one-way transformation and additional information in the ticket seller computer;

second-sending at a third time the signed first transformation and additional information as signed information from the ticket seller computer to the ticket buyer computer;

second-receiving at the third time the signed information in the ticket buyer computer;

storing with the ticket buyer computer at a fourth time both (i) the received signed information plus (ii) the private number within a digital memory store;

storing within the digital memory store at the fourth time the signed information plus the private number as a digital ticket;

wherein upon (i) a reading of the signed information, (ii) a decrypting of the signed information to recover the one-way transformation of the private number, (iii) a reproducing, with the 45 same secure first transformation that the ticket seller used, the secure first transformation of the number all over again, and (iv) a comparing of the decrypted recovered one-way transformation to the reproduced first transformation, validity of the digital ticket is assessable.

51. (Original). In a communications system having a computer of a ticket buyer bi-directionally communicating across an insecure digital communications network to the secure computer of a ticket seller, a method for selling and for delivering a digital ticket from a ticket seller to a ticket buyer; the method comprising:

at a first time first-sending from the computer of the ticket seller across the communications network to the computer of the ticket buyer first data regarding events for which tickets may be had; then at a second time

second-sending from the computer of the ticket buyer across the communications network to the computer of the ticket seller second data identifying and event for which a ticket is desired, the second data accompanied by a secure first transformation of a number that is determined by the ticket buyer only and unknown to others including the ticket seller; then at a third time

third-sending from the computer of the ticket seller across the communications network to the computer of the ticket buyer third data confirming ticketing to the event for which the ticket was desired, the third data accompanied by a secure second transformation of the secure first transformation; and then

storing, with the computer of the ticket buyer within a tangible portable medium of digital data storage, (i) the number in accompaniment to (ii) the secure second transformation;

wherein upon (i) transportation of the digital data storage medium to a physical site of the event, (ii) reading of the number to a computer, and, by use of the same secure first transformation that the buyer did use, reproduction of the secure first transformation of the number all over again, plus (iii) reversing of the secure second transformation by an event computer privileged to knowledge of said second transformation, then a (ii) read and reproduced first transformation is comparable to a (iii) first transformation recovered from reversing the second transformation in order to assess validity of the digital ticket.

52. (Original) The method according to claim 51 wherein the second-sending is of the second data accompanied by a secure first transformation in the form of a one-way hash function of the number.

53. (Original) The method according to claim 51 wherein the third-sending is of the second data accompanied by a secure transformation in the form of a digital signature of the secure first transformation.

54. (Original) The method according to claim 51 wherein the storing within a tangible portable medium of digital data storage comprises:  
printing.

55. (Original) The method according to claim 51 wherein the printing is of at least the (ii) secure second transformation in the form of a two-dimensional bar code.